

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /146 W

-----090913 130817Z /10

P R 120530Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7397
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
USMISSION GENEVA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FJ, XP
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

REF: SUVA 0799

1. AS SEEN FROM SUVA ESPECIALLY AFTER REPORT ABOUT THIS WEEK'S
SPEC MEETING THE TIME HAS COME TO ASK SERIOUSLY THE QUESTION
WHETHER PNG IS INTERESTED AT ALL IN SPRFA OR IS
EXPLOITING THE PROBLEM OF U.S. PARTICIPATION TO APPEAR
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RESPONSIVE TO A SERIOUS PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL
COOPERATION AND THUS AVOID THE OPROBRIUM OF AN EVENTUAL FAILURE
OF THE EFFORT TO SET UP SUCH AN AGENCY.

2. THE DECLARATION OF THE NATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY AND THE RENEG-
ING ON THE TWO-TREATY APPROACH ARE ENOUGH TO REMOVE ANY WISHFUL
DOUBTS ABOUT WHAT PNG PERCEPTION OF ITS NATINAL INTEREST WHICH IS

UNILATERAL EXERCISE OF ITS CLAIMED SOVEREIGN JURISIDCTION OVER
TUNA DNE XPLOITATION OF THIS RESOURCE BY PNG ALONE.

3. IF OUR INTERPRETATION IS CORRECT THE TIME MAY HAVE
COME TO SEEK WAYS TO COMPEL PNG TO FISH OR CUT BAIT. WESTERN
SAMOA HAS ALREADY COME CLOSE TO THIS BY DECLARING THAT IT
SEES NO POINT INCREATING A SPRFA IF THE U..S.
DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN IT. A PRECONDITION TO THIS
APPROACH WOULD BE THE WILL TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF SPRFA BY ALL THOSE WHO ACCEPT U.S. PARTICIPATION AS ESSENTIAL
REGARDLESS OF FAILURE TO CREATE CONSENSUS. IF SUCH WILL IS
DEMONSTRATED WE BELIEVE FIJI AND SOLOMON, POSSIBLY NAURU AND NIUE,
WILL GO ALONG THEREBY CREATING A DILEMA ONLY FOR PNG. CAN THE
U.S. AFFORD TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO MOVE
THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THIS DIRECTION THEREBY EXPOSING ITSELF
FOR ACCUSATIONS OF TRYING TO SPLIT THE FORUM? WE DOUBT IT
SERIOUSLY. ONLY WESTERN SAMOA MIGHT BE WILLING OR ABLE TO DO IT
BY CHANGING ITS RESPONSE TO PNG NEGATIVE STANCE. INSTEAD OF
SAYING "NO SPRFA IF U.S. NOT IN IT" IT CAN BEGIN TO SAY WHY NOT
ANY AGENCY EVEN WITHOUT PNG IN IT.

4. FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND HAVE RESTRAINED THEMSELVES FROM EXERCISING A LEADER-
SHIP ROLE IN THIS WHOLE BUSINESS MUCH THAT THEY MAYBE ANXIOUS
FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF AN SPRFA WITH U.S. IN IT. THEY
SEE IT AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF
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AVOIDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF U.S. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AS WAS
MADE CLEAR TO FISHERIES TEAM DURING THEIR VISIT TO CANBERRA
AND WELLINGTON. ONE COULD HAVE EPXECED THEM, HOWEVER, TO HAVE
DONE A BETTER JOB OF EXPLAINING TO OTHERS AND ESPEICALLY PNG
THEIR LUCID UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPRFA USEFULNESS WITH REGARD
TO REGULATING U.S. FISHING BOAT ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

5. WE HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT LAST FEW DAYS CONVERSATIONS
WITH SPEC DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR HAVE CONVINCED THEM OF
THIS POINT OF VIEW BUT APPARENTLY THEY TOO FELT RESTRAINED IN GOING
ALL OUT TO CONVEY IT TO OTHERS. WE COME, HOWEVER, BACK TO
SUVA'S BASIC CONCLUSION THAT PNG HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS
MIND ABOUT WHERE ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS LIE AND HOW TO
ADVANCE THEM.

6. BARRING A POLITICAL DECISION AT THE PRIME MINISTER (FORUM)
LEVEL TO BE ARRIVED AT BY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS RATHER
THAN FORMAL FORUM MEETING THE BEST THAT SPEC CAN DO WOULD BE
TO MAINTAIN THE 5 - 10 JUNE MEETING WITH AN IMPLICIT UNDER-

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ICA-11 /146 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7398

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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STANDING THAT IT WILL BE A FORUM FOR CONSULTATION
AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. THIS WILL BE IN THE U.S. INTERESTS SINCE
IT WILL HELP MAINTAIN A MINIMUM OF MOMENTUM ON THE SPRFA IDEA.
THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR SPEC TO POSTPONE THE MEETING UNTIL
THE NEXT FORUM MEETING IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER WHICH WOULD BRING
US BACK TO NOVEMBER NAMELY A YEAR AFTER THE
FIRST SUVA MEETING. IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR DOMESTIC LEGISLATION
AND OUR OWN INTEREST TO AVOID ANOTHER "VOYAGER" TYPE INCIDENT
BUT ALSO TO FACILITATE PROMOTION OF REGIONAL COOPERATION WE
SHOULD AGREE WITH FAO REPRESENTATIVE'S RECENT COMMENT THAT
"2000 YEARS WITHOUT SPRFA ALLOW THE HOPE THAT IT CAN WAIT ANOTHER
YEAR OR TWO". "PACIFIC WAY" ALL OVER AGAIN.
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